

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 11016 141409Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 141140Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 633

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11016

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON FROM SAXBE

DEPT ALSO PASS USIA EYES ONLY FOR DIRECTOR KEOGH

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: VOA TREATMENT OF INDIAN EMERGENCY

1. I AM DISTURBED BY THE AUGUST 13 VOA TREATMENT OF EVENTS IN INDIA. AT THE VERY TIME WHEN I HAVE BEEN URGING ON INDIAN OFFICIALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THE NECESSITY OF RESTRAINT IN CRITICISING THE UNITED STATES, THE VOICE UNLEASHES A BARRAGE OF HOSTILE CRITICISM AIMED AT THE PRIME MINISTER HERSELF. IT IS TRUE THAT THE ATTACK WAS IN THE FORM OF REPEATING EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM THE US PRESS, BUT THE THRUST OF THE ACTION WAS DIRECT AND PERSONAL. THOSE ELEMENTS URGING THE PRIME MINISTER TO TAKE A HOSTILE LINE OKWARD THE US WILL BE ABLE TO POINT TO THE VOICE PROGRAM AS EVIDENCE THAT THE US GOVERNMENT IS BEHIND OR TACITLY APPROVES OF ATTACKS ON MRS. GANDHI. FURTHERMORE, INDIAN POLICY MAKERS CANNOT BE FAULTED IF THEY SEE IN THIS INCIDENT A SUBTLE SIGNAL THAT WE HAVE DECIDED TO WRITE OFF INDIRA. GIVEN THE REPORTS THE SAME DAY THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT VISIT INDIA THIS FALL, AND THE VOA'S OWN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ITS CORRESPONDENT WAS BEING WITHDRAWN, THE TIMING OF THE VOICE REPLAY OF HOSTILE EDITORIAL COMMENT KMULD NOT HAVE BEEN WORSE.

2. NO ONE DISPUTES THE RIGHT OR NECESSITY OF THE VOICE

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HAVING AS MUCH INDEPENDENCE AS POSSIBLE, BUT IT IS THE

US GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL RADIO. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL
IF YOU WOULD LOOK INTO THE AUGUST 13 BROADCASTS AND OBTAIN
ASSURANCES THAT OUR EFFORTS TO KEEP RELATIONS WITH INDIA
ON A RELATIVELY EVEN KEEL WILL NOT BE JEOPARDIZED AGAIN
IN THIS MANNER.
SAXBE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED USIA

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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